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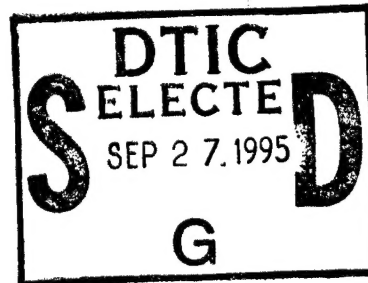
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Roderick J Little July 31, 1995
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this training program is to provide biostatisticians with the requisite scientific knowledge to understand current issues in breast cancer research, and training in statistical and epidemiological techniques and research methodology related to breast cancer. The training leads to the doctorate of philosophy in biostatistics. The methods of education include formal coursework in biostatistics, epidemiology and biology relating to breast cancer, interdisciplinary seminars on current research and biostatistical topics in breast cancer research, and mentored research in collaboration with biostatistics faculty and breast cancer investigators. This report summarizes activities in the first year of this training grant.

DESCRIPTION OF TRAINEES

The Principle Investigator Dr. Little, with the guidance of the Steering Committee, appointed two highly-qualified trainees for the 1994-95 academic year, namely Mr. Hua-Yun Chen and Mr. Daowen Zhang.

Mr. Zhang is one of the top doctoral students in the Department of Biostatistics. He entered with a BS in Mathematics from South China Normal University, an MS in Applied Mathematics from Peking University, and an MS in Statistics from Southern Illinois University. Prior to his appointment as a Trainee, he was previously funded as a Research Assistant at the Cancer Center. His coursework was excellent, and he had passed the Part 1 Candidacy Examination in May of 1994.

Mr. Zhang has continued to excel in coursework while on the Grant, achieving a cumulative GPA of 8.046 ($A = 8$). He passed the Part 2 Candidacy Examination in July of 1995 and has advanced to candidacy. Mr. Zhang is planning to do dissertation work with Dr. Mark Becker on methodology for repeated-measures categorical data.

Mr. Chen was an in-coming student in Biostatistics, having previously obtained a BS degree in Statistics from Peking University and an MS in Biostatistics from Beijing Medical University, where he was actively involved in collaborative projects. Like Zhang, Mr. Chen distinguished himself as one of the top biostatistics students in his coursework this year, achieving a cumulative GPA of 7.96 with a heavy course load. Mr. Chen passed his Part 1 Candidacy exam in June, and was commended for his strong performance.

Both trainees regularly attend breast cancer seminars and grand rounds, and are becoming involved in research involving breast cancer. In particular, Mr. Zhang is working on a survival data analysis for Sophia Merajver, for a breast cancer study involving 90 patients who were treated on a protocol which involved radiation, surgery and chemotherapy. The goal is to identify potential prognostic factors for survival and disease-free survival. Dr. Chen has reviewed Biostatistical issues associated with the research of Dr. Rubineau, and wrote a summary report on the relationship between Breast Cancer Risk and Dietary Fat. He is currently working with Myla

Strawderman and Rod Little on a missing-data problem involving data from a breast cancer clinical trial.

The appointment of these two very strong trainees has provided an excellent start to the grant. At the Steering Committee meeting of July 1995, it was decided to award a traineeship to Ms. Monica Kester, a doctoral student who will join the Department in the Fall of 1995. Ms. Kester has a BA in Mathematics from the State University of New York at Geneseo (UGPA = 3.81), and an MS in Statistics from Yale University. With a Strong theoretical background, Ms. Kester expressed a particular interest in applications of Biostatistics to Cancer Research in her application.

TRAINING PERSONNEL

Dr. Judith Bromberg, co-principle investigator and Director of the Biostatistics Core for the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, left the University of Michigan in September 1994 to take a position at the Henry Ford Hospital. The Principle Investigator for the grant and Chair of Biostatistics, Roderick Little, assumed the role of Interim Director of the Biostatistics Core, and hence became more centrally positioned for directing the activities of the training grant. Dr. Daniel Normolle, Assistant Research Scientist in the Department of Biostatistics, joined the Biostatistics Core with the departure of Dr. Bromberg and assumed some of her duties. Normolle, with Research Associate Myla Strawderman, have jointly assumed the role of the day-to-day supervision of the trainees.

In the future, the grant will benefit from ambitious plans that are in place to expand the role of the Biostatistics Core in the Cancer Center. When Dr. Little assumed the Interim Directorship of the Biostatistics Core, a national search was authorized for a permanent Core Director, who will hold a tenured senior appointment in the Department of Biostatistics, and devote most of his/her energies to developing the Cancer Center Biostatistics Core. Dr. KyungMann Kim, Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the Harvard School of Public Health and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, was selected by the Search Committee and will assume the position in the Fall of 1995. Dr. Kim is a leading researcher in the design and analysis of sequential clinical trials, and he has received FIRST Award funding from the NIH for his work in this area. His research output include publications in the major statistics journals, such as *Biometrics*, *Biometrika* and the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, and a range of collaborative publications with Cancer Center researchers. His blend of methodological and collaborative research, and his experience with the Eastern Clinical Oncology Group at the Dana Farber, makes him well qualified to assume the Directorship of the Core. It is expected that Dr. Kim will assume a leadership role in this training grant when he assumes his new position at Michigan.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Steering Committee. The steering committee has met twice, in November 1994 and July 1995, to review the trainees' progress, evaluate nominees for future traineeships, and consider grant activities. Original members of the Committee, Dr. Bromberg, Dr. Weber and Dr. August have

since left to accept positions away from the University of Michigan. Their places on the committee have been replaced by Ms. Strawderman, Dr. Normolle, Dr. Sofia Merajver and Dr. Alfred Chang.

Grant Advertising. In an initiative to advertise the grant, early in 1995 a broad mailing was sent to Statistics and Biostatistics Departments, Cancer Centers and other potential sources of recruits.

CONCLUSIONS

The training grant is off to a promising start, recruiting two excellent trainees who have excelled academically and are becoming involved in Breast Cancer research. In the future, the training grant will play an important role in the further expansion and development of Biostatistical activities, with the recruitment of Dr. Kim as Director of the Biostatistics Core at the Cancer Center.